

National Congress Bulletin

COMMUNIQUE

CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION OF
PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS TO VICTORY

AUGUST 1942 ★ ★ ★ VOL. 9 ★ No. 12

ALABAMA

★ The ability and aptness of American youth to serve in a time of crisis form the basis of the state-wide Alabama "Youth in War" program operating under the sponsorship of parent-teacher associations all over the state. The purpose of the program is to give the young people of Alabama a well-deserved opportunity to help win the war and to make them see their services as important and valuable. It is believed that no better preventive of idleness and juvenile delinquency can be found than the inner sense of satisfaction with which a young person realizes his true usefulness.

The program has been set up to cover training for democracy and training for defense. Under the former are included morale building and a program of general war work; under the latter, technical instruction in first aid, nutrition, health, recreation, and conservation. This pioneer work may well result in a significant postwar continuation of young people's interest in citizenship and community affairs. Meanwhile, its immediate value is beyond estimate.

ARIZONA

★ The recreation program of the Arizona Congress has been revitalized by the needs incident to war. Dances for high school students, to keep the young people together and with their own age groups, have been prominently featured. Swimming classes, story hours for younger children, open school libraries, and softball teams are highlighted also. Adult recreation projects and the supplying of hostesses for a soldiers' recreation center round out this important phase of Arizona's war effort.

A most interesting project that combined recreation and war service was conducted by a P.T.A. group that met to make quilts; these quilts were later turned over to the Red Cross to be used in case of need during an evacuation.

It is interesting also to note that Arizona ranks second among eleven western states in the school lunch program, and its penny milk program is the first of these eleven to go into operation. Credit for this is due largely to the cooperation of the parent-teacher associations.

THE chairman of the special war emergency committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, wishing to give parent-teacher leaders throughout the nation a definite idea of the excellent and varied war work that is being done by parent-teacher groups from coast to coast, recently sent out a call for up-to-date information. Steadily the reports rolled in—now from an Eastern seaboard state, now from the deep South or the Northern lake regions, now from the Middle West. Nearly every state responded. From the wealth of inspiring material submitted we present as many highlights as space permits. States not represented are omitted only because their reports did not reach the National Office in time to be included. It is safe to assume that every state congress in the country is doing its wholehearted best to help win the war. No more cheering news could be presented to parent-teacher workers than is contained in this series of parent-teacher word pictures—snapshots, as it were, of democracy in action. Multiply each by thousands, and you will have a fair idea of the scope of the parent-teacher war effort today.



Mrs. E. C. Stopher,
vice-president, N.C.
P.T.A., and chairman,
special war emergency
committee.

COLORADO

★ Colorado is on the alert. Denver: The Denver County parent-teacher war service committee has divided the entire city into approximately 500 war service areas, with an area mother appointed for each. The junior and senior high school chairmen act as the contact group, bringing information directly to the area mothers from the Colorado and Denver Defense Council.

Colorado Springs: The P.T.A. is co-operating with city and community organizations in recreation, social service, and assimilation of a greatly augmented population.

Pueblo: Active participation of the P.T.A. in recreation projects and social adjustments is evident.

Similar activities are under way throughout the state. The Colorado Congress looks forward to a year of heightened service.

CONNECTICUT

★ A Connecticut parent-teacher group has worked out a detailed plan for the protection of children in case of damage to school buildings during an attack. Originating with appointment of a special large committee (fifteen persons) from the various sections of the school district, the plan was organized by subdividing the district into eight sections. Data concerning the children in each section were tabulated, and volunteers in each were registered to assist in guiding the children to shelter. These volunteer "walkers" will report at designated churches, to which teachers will have guided the children. From the churches, when the danger is over, the "walkers" will take the children home, making it unnecessary for parents to go out in search of their children.

If the school building is undamaged, of course, the children will be kept there during the raid. The food committee has arranged with nearby stores for a supply of graham crackers and cocoa, should feeding become necessary.

DELAWARE

★ With the cooperation of the parent-teacher association, school children in

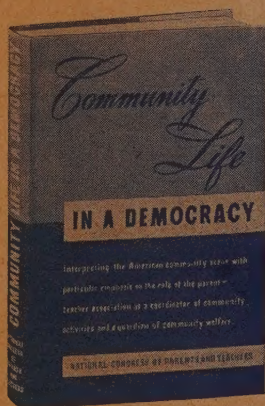
(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The following is an excerpt from a letter received by Mrs. Kletzer, national president, from Jonathan Daniels, Assistant Director in Charge of Civilian Mobilization, Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C.:

"Nothing in the war effort is more important than the elimination of duplication, neglect, and confusion in the many essential jobs on the home front. The war job is too big for any one agency, however eager, and too exacting for any single group, however competent. It is a job for all and it will take vigorous teamwork on the part of all . . . May I ask that you urge your members, wherever they live, to volunteer their services to defense councils? If your organization has local chapters, urge them to cooperate with defense councils in strengthening their communities. You can contribute the influence of your organization to upbuilding the American community for complete mobilization during the war and for the peace that will follow the war . . .

"Your assistance in this matter will be recognized by us as the type of national organization leadership upon which much of the success in the civilian war effort depends."



HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY?

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has published a new book called *Community Life in a Democracy*. It contains 256 pages, illustrated, and is available at the nominal sum of \$1 a copy. This book is the result of many months of careful planning. It is the product of expert thinking of many eminent authorities in community health, education, safety, and welfare. Authorize today the purchase of a copy for your parent-teacher bookshelf.

Delaware are being surrounded with as much security as foresight and careful planning can provide. Each school has been organized; all utilities have been marked with clear directions; rescue tools, first aid supplies, and emergency rations have been made available; first aid and infirmary services have been organized, utilizing not only trained workers but also pupils; identification tags have been distributed to all pupils and school employees; dispersal points and "safest way home" routes have been developed; and air raid drills are held to prepare pupils against any emergency.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

★ The District of Columbia Congress has:

1. Issued 90,000 copies of a nutrition leaflet, "Vitamins for Victory," and distributed them to the school children of the District.
2. Conducted a paper salvage campaign that resulted in the collection of nearly 4,000,000 pounds of waste paper.
3. Cooperated with the rubber salvage program and similar programs in the District.
4. Sponsored many courses in first aid, both standard and advanced; sponsored classes in home nursing, consumer education, and nutrition.
5. Aided the school personnel in draft registration and in sugar and gasoline rationing.
6. Cooperated with the schools in the sale of war bonds and stamps.
7. Cooperated with the Committee for the Day Care of Children.
8. Assisted with the sale of identification tags for school children. (In many cases, children unable to buy tags were supplied them by the P.T.A.)
9. Supplied parent volunteers to help teachers with emergency protection of children.

GEORGIA

★ An appeal to the Governor for immediate financial aid in the registration and identification of Georgia's children has resulted in a proclamation for this work, to include all children in the state up to the age of eighteen years. The Governor's proclamation carried a clause providing for the sum of \$25,000 to cover the project. The appeal originated with the special war emergency committee of the Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers. The executive committee of the state congress has voted to extend every possible effort to put the program into good effect throughout the state. Parent-teacher workers will help select procedures fitted to Georgia's needs.

HAWAII

★ The Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers, as soon as the schools reopened, took instant action to see that every school had adequate air raid shelters and trenches. Through the military authorities, parents were called upon to help complete the shelters at once. The response was excellent.

Every adult in Hawaii now has a gas mask. The parent-teacher association is working on the problem of temporary gas masks for children and babies, to be used until the permanent masks arrive.

It must not be assumed, however, that because of these necessary precautions the Hawaii Congress is not carrying on the regular parent-teacher program. All wartime activities are in full swing. Six demonstrations to emphasize current food problems have been arranged, with special stress on native Hawaiian foods. Measures are being taken to supervise unattended children whose mothers are at work. The Hawaii Congress has informed parents of the importance of blood typing; registration and identification of both children and adults; and immunization against typhoid and scarlet fever.

This efficient work is the more remarkable when one considers the changed conditions in Hawaii since Pearl Harbor. Many schools have been taken over by the military authorities, and many homes and business houses have been made available for classroom use. Some schools meet in the morning, others in the afternoon. Numerous high school students throughout the islands are working on some defense project. The cooperation between the community and the schools is excellent, but the Hawaii Congress is indeed operating under difficulties. It is a tribute to the spirit and intelligence of Hawaiian parents and teachers that the work is so well done.

IDAHOO

★ "Standing by our country" is a slogan that evokes a universal response among Idaho parent-teacher members. A partial tabulation of war activities, with the number of local units engaged in each, is as follows:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Assisting sale of war stamps..... | 33 |
| 2. Collecting salvage materials..... | 44 |
| 3. Securing clothing for evacuees..... | 15 |
| 4. Assisting with child protection | |
| a. Air raid warning instructions..... | 17 |
| b. Air raid drills..... | 29 |
| c. Members serving as wardens..... | 33 |
| d. Immunization..... | 12 |
| e. Hot lunches..... | 35 |
| 5. Assisting with sugar rationing..... | 18 |
| 6. Encouraging Victory Gardens..... | 15 |
| 7. Members enrolling in civilian defense..... | 12 |
| 8. Cooperating in Victory Book drive..... | 8 |
| 9. Serving on defense councils..... | 9 |
| 10. Selecting air raid shelters..... | 7 |

There is great interest also in the plan to appoint block mothers. This plan has already been carried out in Twin Falls.

ILLINOIS

When the present emergency arose, the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers was one of the first organizations in the country to organize nutrition study courses. Other fields of study were also promptly explored, notably the question of child guidance in wartime.

The Victory Savings drive in Moline, which obtained from a town of 36,000 population a pledge of nearly \$2,000,000, was outstanding for the simplicity and efficiency of its organization. The council president served as chairman and was assisted by the president of the senior high school association. Presidents of junior high school and parochial school associations served on the executive board. School district divisions were used, with local unit presidents as captains. Each captain appointed ten lieutenants; each lieutenant, ten minute men. Minute men appointed by the parochial schools worked with the captains of the public school district in which the parochial school was located; this prevented overlapping of territory. Each captain was given a map of her district, divided into ten sections, so that each lieutenant knew exactly what blocks were to be covered by her minute men.

On the night before the campaign opened, pep meetings were held in all grade school buildings and final instructions and working materials issued. On the evening of July 11, over 1,000 men and women made a house-to-house canvass, with the impressive results aforementioned. This is a good example of what cooperation can accomplish.

INDIANA

The effectiveness of the war program of the Indiana Congress has been demonstrated by a significant increase of 8,000 in membership. Since last fall the Indiana Congress has made every effort to direct the attention of its local units to the defense and wartime program of the National Congress. Sixty-one associations have completed courses in first aid, 37 in nutrition, and 26 in home nursing. In addition to association projects, a program of individual effort and sacrifice has been urged. The increase in membership shows that the parent-teacher program of child welfare is winning wide recognition as a community asset. It also demonstrates the new trend toward citizenship consciousness. All activities of the Indiana Congress are based upon the profound realization that now, with America at war, every organization must prove its right to survive.

IOWA

Parent-teacher associations all over Iowa are stressing nutrition, particularly nutrition through the school lunch. The school lunch program has reached a high level of efficiency with regard to both facilities and administration.

Family nutrition also receives constant emphasis. An especially interesting note is struck by P.T.A. cooperation in a county movement to enlist grocery stores in the development of a program of wise family meal planning. Menus worked out to include all the food elements necessary to good health will be distributed through grocery stores, clubs, and nutrition classes. They will be made out on three distinct price levels. Grocers will be asked to plan their advertising around these nutritional menus.

The organization of block mothers' corps in Iowa is another important P.T.A. war activity. This project has been recognized everywhere as an essential part of a comprehensive war effort.

LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, while it adds to its work the many and varied activities made necessary by the war, continues to hold firmly to the line of regular parent-teacher endeavor. The services that make life safe and happy for children and youth in time of peace must be made certain as far as possible also during war, for they all are directed toward protection in the wider sense.

This is not to say, of course, that the emergency needs engendered by the war are overlooked. Far from it. In many schools P.T.A. groups have had the children fingerprinted and have carried out an identification program. The community school lunch, the Victory Gardens campaign, wartime canning projects, and classes in first aid and nutrition are flourishing. In some places the P.T.A. has been able to keep the school playgrounds open; this, especially in time of war, is a valuable recreational service to the community.

MARYLAND

In the Somerset P.T.A. of Chevy Chase, Maryland, parents, teachers, and pupils together have carried out an amazingly efficient construction project. They have built a school air raid shelter. "We didn't wait for someone to give us the money. We went out and did the job ourselves," say the Somerset members. Fathers contributed their Sunday hours, split logs on the school playground, and erected stout barricades at all the windows of the school basement, which makes an ideal shelter, and is rapidly being equipped with everything needed, from first aid apparatus to emergency rations. The children themselves have not been left out of the planning; those in the upper grades, for example, have organized two fire brigades. Anyone who has an idea that the American pioneer spirit is dead has only to visit the Somerset school.



The V Home Campaign

Nation-wide muster of American homes to determine the extent to which they are participating in the total war offensive and making necessary air raid

precautions will be conducted on a house-to-house basis under instructions issued recently by James M. Landis, Director of the Office of Civilian Defense.

"Local defense officials are authorized to award a 'V Home' certificate to any home which has made such air raid precautions as are deemed necessary locally and which asserts that it has participated in certain practical measures to strengthen the war effort. These measures include conservation, salvage, refusal to spread rumors designed to divide the nation, and regular purchases of War Savings Stamps and Bonds. The 'V Home' certificate is to be signed by the air raid warden or other appropriate local defense official and it is designed as a window sticker for display purposes."

STUDY OF WARTIME SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

The numerous problems growing out of vehicle, tire, and gas rationing as they affect the transportation of four million children to school by bus were studied in detail at work conferences held at Yale University and in Washington, D.C., during June and July.

Six general problems were studied: wartime school transportation policies; school bus maintenance during the war; conservation through proper routing, operation, and use of school buses; the school bus driver; war emergency bus uses; and procurement of school buses. The conference group was composed of representatives of educational groups, including the U. S. Office of Education, National Education Association, National Council of Chief State School Officers, and selected state departments of public instruction; of war agencies, such as the Office of Defense Transportation, War Production Board, and Office of Price Administration; and of nonofficial organizations, including the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, National Safety Council, and American Automobile Association.

The report of the conference will be ready for distribution in August. If you are interested in this subject, please write to the national chairman of the committee on Safety for further information.

P.T.A. FUNDS FOR WARTIME NEEDS

A Recommendation That May Offer Guidance to Other Local Groups

THE following is a copy of a letter sent to all local presidents and treasurers by the treasurer of the Tenth District of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers:

"In this time of great uncertainty and the possibility of added financial responsibility to meet a war emergency need, Tenth District recommends that parent-teacher associations create a new fund designated as 'War Emergency.'

"The association should set aside for this fund an amount agreed upon by the executive board, after conference with the principal, as adequate based upon school enrollment and membership.

"UNLESS you have a surplus in some other fund, it is suggested that a special project be put on immediately to raise your war emergency fund. Publicize this project for this *specific* purpose and remember it may not be used for any other purpose. If taken from a fund already set up, it requires action by the association.

"Your executive board authorizes expenditures from the war emergency fund but in case of *special emergency*, a committee of three, preferably the president, a principal, treasurer, or defense chairman, should be authorized to draw on this fund."

REVISED PENNY MILK PROGRAM

Of especial interest to parent-teacher associations is the revised school milk program recently approved by Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture. This plan is designed to make more milk available to more children.

Under the revised program the Agricultural Marketing Administration will sign an agreement with sponsoring groups (boards of education and organizations) and will pay the farmer's price for the milk. The school or the sponsoring group will:

1. Pay the costs for pasteurization, bottling, and delivery.
2. Decide whether the child will pay a penny a half-pint to help cover this cost or whether the school or the sponsoring group will absorb the entire expense. (In no case must the child pay more than a penny a half-pint.)
3. Assume responsibility for negotiating with dairies and for serving the milk.

Records have shown that the penny milk program results in a substantial increase in consumption of milk by school children.

MICHIGAN

★ The Michigan Congress is stressing, through a course in parent-teacher leadership, such important activities as the prevention of delinquency, the provision of recreation for people in defense or production areas, and work in Americanization.

A policy of vigilance is maintained, that every need engendered by the war situation may be met without delay. The effect of requisitioning school buses for transportation of war workers is being studied. P.T.A. members are helping to promote the habit of sharing automobile transportation and the cutting down of driving to what is absolutely essential. They are making every effort to direct attention to the opportunity now afforded American families to center family activities in the home and its immediate surroundings.

Parent education, always of prime importance, takes on added significance in time of war. As parents meet the war, so will their children meet it. The Michigan Congress, thoroughly aware of this fact, interests itself deeply in the better preparation of fathers and mothers to meet their exacting and far-reaching responsibilities.

MINNESOTA

★ The war activities of the Minnesota Congress of Parents and Teachers include:

1. Securing nurses to take charge of health problems arising in trailer camps.
2. Conducting an extensive tuberculosis check-up in one area.
3. Helping to enlarge school facilities in several industrial areas.
4. Sponsoring the installation of more highway signs as a safety measure in congested rural areas.
5. Improving sanitary conditions in some rural schools.
6. Conducting classes in first aid, home nursing, knitting, the making of surgical dressings, sewing, nutrition, and home hygiene.
7. Sponsoring Victory gardens.
8. Canning surplus commodities for the hot school lunch.
9. Participating in the Victory Book campaign.
10. Planning for the care and protection of children in an emergency.
11. Sponsoring the sale of war bonds and stamps.

MISSISSIPPI

★ The Mississippi Congress centered its summer institute at the state college around the subject "Children and Youth in Wartime." Emphasis throughout the program was placed on keeping children calm and happy under the stresses of war.

A wartime committee has been set up in this state. Chairman of such standing committees as those on School Education, Recreation, Juvenile Protection, Home and Family Life, and Health and Summer Round-Up, together with lead-

ers in charge of the school lunch program and other vital parent-teacher activities, are the members. It will be more or less a coordinating committee, bringing together all the special activities and expanded war programs of the regular Congress committees. It is not in any sense a committee to undertake a new type of P.T.A. work.

Such regular war activities as the conduct of training classes in various fields of defense, cooperation with the Red Cross and with the Office of Civilian Defense, and participation in nation-wide defense drives continue in increased measure.

NEBRASKA

★ Local parent-teacher units in Nebraska have contributed 7,022 volumes to the Victory Book campaign; registered 7,943 families for the Victory Home and Garden campaign; sponsored the immunization of 6,497 children against diphtheria and the vaccination of 7,333 against smallpox; and carried on an active program of promotion of war bonds and stamps. First aid and nutrition have topped the Nebraska list of subjects for group study.

Nebraska is just beginning to feel the effects of the changes necessitated by military cantonments and war industries in the state. A special war committee, composed of the state president and the seven vice-presidents, has been appointed to determine a definite program of action.

The Nebraska Congress has contributed to the war effort through representation on many state committees and cooperation with many local groups. Nebraska follows the national parent-teacher plan as closely as possible, with such adaptations and modifications as local conditions make necessary.

NEVADA

★ Although the Nevada Congress participates fully in all the services generally accepted as useful to the national war effort, it has laid the strongest stress of all on continuing and improving the hot school lunch project. Maintaining the school lunch is a defense measure, and as such it must not be allowed to lag.

Boulder City and Las Vegas are defense towns; accordingly, classes in air raid protection and first aid have been formed by P.T.A. members. Members also serve as hostesses for USO dances. In the little town of Cherry Creek there is a group that sews for the Red Cross and is continuing its work throughout the summer. Block mothers have been organized in Winnemucca.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

✱ The state of New Hampshire maintains a council of defense. The state president of the New Hampshire Congress is a member of this council. Parent-teacher associations are asked to cooperate but not to organize any separate activity. All work comes under the Governor's council of defense. The New Hampshire Congress has furnished leaders for nutrition courses; it has helped with rationing; it has worked devotedly to promote the sale of war bonds and stamps; and it has helped, when requested by the state board of education, with the fingerprinting of children.

NEW JERSEY

✱ The Wartime Pledge of the New Jersey Congress is as follows:

We, the local units of the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers, in an all-out program of defense, do pledge ourselves:

1. **TO APPOINT** war emergency chairmen, through whom all war efforts will be cleared.

2. **TO ACQUAINT** ourselves with all rulings and procedures of local defense councils. Red Cross units, USO, and all school activities, in order that no duplication of effort be made.

3. **TO OFFER** one hundred per cent cooperation to all defense agencies in our community.

4. **TO INTENSIFY** our present health service program.

5. **TO HELP** preserve our schools.

6. **TO WORK** unceasingly for identification and registration of all children.

7. **TO PLANT** gardens for victory and, having planted them, to care for them.

8. **TO CONSERVE** systematically. We will "Eat it up; wear it out; make it do; go without."

9. **TO APPOINT** block mothers for special protection of children.

10. **TO SUPPORT** recreational and social projects for our boys in service.

11. **TO URGE** the purchase of war bonds and stamps as a patriotic duty and a sound investment.

12. **TO KEEP** the faith, that our faith may be transmitted to our children and give them that feeling of security which is their natural birthright.

How well the New Jersey Congress keeps this pledge is shown by a recent incident in Hillside. Six block mothers were appointed in an area near a playground that had no other satisfactory protection. Their homes were prominently marked, and the children were instructed as to what to do in the event of a warning. Some days later an alert was sounded. In two minutes the children from the playground, to the last child, were safe in the houses of their block mothers!

NEW MEXICO

✱ The greater the number of parents and teachers who work together, the stronger will be the all-important line of home-school-community defense. The New Mexico Congress is, therefore, asking all New Mexico associations to double their membership. Stress is being laid on the fact that the parent-teacher association is a man's as well as a woman's organization, and a great effort is under way to enlist increasing numbers of fathers in the parent-teacher war program.

In working for a doubled membership and for more active father participation, the Congress acts in anticipation of a signally important need—the wartime financing of New Mexico's public schools. Parent-teacher backing of the strongest possible type is needed for important school finance legislation that will come before the state legislature in January.

NORTH CAROLINA

✱ The war committee of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers has held several meetings to plan for parent-teacher cooperation in the war effort of various organizations and governmental agencies. The committee has outlined in detail a number of specific activities for local units in line with the war program, stressing particularly the promotion of nutrition through the school lunch and cooperation in the Victory Book campaign and the salvage drive. The importance of continued parent-teacher activity throughout the summer is a featured point. Plans for the new parent-teacher year will be prepared by the war committee.

Local units all over North Carolina are serviced with useful wartime information, much of which is gleaned from the contacts of the state president and other leaders with cooperating organizations and agencies. This statewide sharing of timely data results in an efficient and well-integrated war effort.

OHIO

✱ Ohio is carrying forward a full program of wartime activities. Many associations have reported classes in nutrition, first aid, and home nursing. The organization of new nursery schools has been stimulated in order to take care of small children whose mothers are working in defense industries. As an example of the type of work being done throughout Ohio, we quote from a report from the East Cleveland Council: "A six-weeks course in nutrition was sponsored. Two discussion panels on war topics were conducted. Council members attended P. T. A. Day at the Art Museum and viewed war films from London. Each unit of the council has had from one to five first aid courses taught by Red Cross instructors. One of the units has organized a class for renovating old clothes."

MORE VITAL NOW THAN EVER

Make the promotion of our official magazine, the National Parent-Teacher, part of your wartime effort. Young mothers who are wives of men in the armed services will welcome its sound guidance. They will be especially interested in the study course "Babies in Wartime" which starts in the September issue. A splendid way to interest parents in the work of your association is to enroll them first as subscribers to the National Parent-Teacher. With transportation curtailed and outside speakers becoming more and more difficult to obtain, many associations are planning to make greater use of the National Parent-Teacher. Your association can continue to have stimulating and interesting meetings by basing its program on the material in the Magazine. For further information write to National Parent-Teacher, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.



BLOCK MOTHERS

THE organization of block mothers' corps is one of the important wartime activities of the P.T.A. According to this plan, one mother is appointed to organize the neighborhood to meet the needs of its children with especial heed to those children whose mothers are employed. She will arrange for an "open house" which will be ready, in case of an air raid warning, to receive children whose parents are away from home. Such a house should not only be equipped with a first aid shelf, an emergency food shelf, water containers, and apparatus for fighting fire, but should have a collection of children's books, games, and other devices for keeping children occupied. To meet demands for safety and to lessen transportation requirements, the establishment of backyard playgrounds, cooperative supervision of play groups, and other recreational programs should be stimulated in every neighborhood.

A window sticker to designate the "open house" is available from the state congress.



TWIN GUIDES to an efficient parent-teacher wartime program are the two new National Parent-Teacher study courses, "Babies in Wartime" and "America Pitches In." Both begin in the September issue of the Magazine, and both contain materials that no parent-teacher group interested in building for victory can afford to do without. "America Pitches In" is a comprehensive guide to family life in a world at war. "Babies in Wartime" is an indispensable aid to young parents in meeting the new situations that lie before them in these troubled times. Make sure of them NOW by subscribing to your national magazine!

OKLAHOMA

★ The war activities committee of the Oklahoma Congress is sharply aware of both the present and the future as related to the war situation. A weekly series of broadcasts is conducted, giving the latest state and national P.T.A. news. Each broadcast also includes information and suggestions from the state war activities committee and news of what is being done by local associations throughout the state. Where desired, conferences are being conducted by members of the war committee for local and council officers and war committees. These are organized under the auspices of councils. Several have been conducted during the summer; others are planned for fall.

Block mothers are receiving considerable emphasis and have been organized in numerous places. Window stickers are supplied by the National Office. In some localities the block mothers cooperate closely with the OCD; in others they operate independently. In the latter case, of course, they cooperate when called on in such defense activities as registering and rationing.

Oklahoma associations and councils are being encouraged to keep record books of wartime activities, including work done in cooperation with other organizations. When the war is over these will be extremely useful in outlining future P.T.A. work, especially with regard to cooperative projects.

PENNSYLVANIA

★ Striking red, white, and blue posters designating children's emergency shelters open at all hours have been prepared by the Scranton City Council of Parent-Teacher Associations and distributed through both public and parochial schools. The selection of homes to serve as shelters was made on the basis of two or three in the immediate neighborhood of each school and the rest located at five-minute intervals (walking time of children). Children will be kept in school if an alert is sounded during school hours. The emergency shelter plan is designed to provide city-wide protection in case an air raid warning is sounded while pupils are on their way to or from school or during out-of-school hours.

RHODE ISLAND

★ Over 5,000 members of parent-teacher groups in Rhode Island volunteered to assist the teachers with the sugar and gas rationing. They are now helping with the supplementary forms. Every member in the state is pledged to buy one ten-cent defense stamp each week. Local groups have organized many sewing classes. For example, the Smithfield P.T.A. of Pawtucket, with a membership of 101, has cut out 3,692 garments, finished 2,655 of them, and knitted 234.

The block mothers plan has been approved by the State Council of Defense, and as soon as committees are appointed the associations will undertake this project.

The state congress has also sponsored a plan to provide all children from one to fifteen with identification tags.

Plans have been made to have in every school women trained in first aid, canteen, and registration work. In case of emergency the women are prepared to serve all day.

SOUTH DAKOTA

★ The South Dakota Congress is not taking a summer vacation this year. Local units are urged to:

1. Appoint war committees.
2. Register members for volunteer service.
3. Furnish a copy of the register to the local Office of Civilian Defense.
4. Sponsor classes in first aid, nutrition, home nursing, and canteen cookery in cooperation with the Red Cross.
5. Continue sponsorship of the school lunch program through (a) school gardens; (b) canning and storage; and (c) training of personnel.
6. Sponsor summer recreation programs.
7. Conduct the Summer Round-Up.
8. Encourage adult discussion groups.
9. Sponsor an immunization clinic.
10. Sponsor child protection activities (nursery schools, play centers, playgrounds, parent education study groups).
11. Cooperate in salvage campaigns.

TEXAS

★ As a part of its wartime program, the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers will issue a certificate of merit to parent-teacher associations that accomplish significant wartime work. This project has unusual organizational value. The requirements are as follows:

1. The local association must work as a unit.
2. The local unit must begin its program by July 15 and make a report of progress to the district president by October 15. At least three called meetings must be held during this period.
3. The program must include one or more of the suggestions outlined by the state chairman of war activities.

Borrowing an idea from the Illinois Congress, the Texas Congress is launching a card project for introducing the sons of parent-teacher members to other parent-teacher families in military camp areas. This service has proved an outstanding success wherever it has been tried. More and more parent-teacher groups are expected to adopt it as time goes on.

One local unit has voted a fifty-dollar revolving fund to keep war stamps on hand for sale to school children.

UTAH

★ The Utah Congress, realizing that we cannot neglect the welfare of children in time of war and expect to have a post-war generation worthy of the ideals for which we are fighting, is reminding its local units of the importance of keeping always in mind the unique purpose of the parent-teacher association. They are advised to keep their activities well within the field of child welfare. Nothing can compensate for the loss of any part of the regular parent-teacher program.

In line with this policy, one of the most notable Utah war projects is a survey of all children for the purpose of setting up a unified system of identification. This project was assigned to the Congress by the state defense council. The survey data sheet includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the children (all in family); the father; the mother; the next of kin in the community; and the next of kin outside the community. The date of each child's birth, the present age, the school attended, and any identifying scars or birthmarks are noted. Space is left for a serial number. Preschool children are carefully so designated. Health handicaps requiring special care, such as diabetes or cardiac disease, are listed. The blank carries also the survey date, the name of the person making the investigation, and the name of the local P.T.A. unit.

VERMONT

Local parent-teacher units in Vermont have for the most part used themes for their year's work that are closely related to defense or to the war effort. The Vermont Congress believes that war activities of all kinds are decidedly stimulated by the wise selection of a theme and by continuous emphasis on all its implications. Victory gardens, canning projects, health and nutrition programs, and all other patriotic activities become more vital when they are tied up with a general expression of responsibility for service to the nation in its hour of need. Local parent-teacher groups in Vermont are urged to keep up their regular work.

The Special War Extra edition of the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN was enthusiastically received by local leaders. The Commissioner of Education of the state asked for enough copies to send to all school superintendents.

VIRGINIA

From Lynchburg comes the following report of P.T.A. war activities: One elementary school, through the efforts of the parent-teacher association, has contributed \$30 toward the support of a British refugee. Three elementary schools in Lynchburg sponsored day nurseries to free mothers for work in war industry. Many P.T.A. members in Virginia have completed courses of training in first aid, nutrition, and home nursing. In one community the junior high school P.T.A. knitted five afghans during the year.

The president of the Lynchburg group serves on the Committee of Defense Transportation and spends four hours each week at the Communication Center.

All regular parts of the national program are well represented in the war program of the Virginia Congress. There is a fine spirit of cooperation and devotion. Much more will be accomplished in the new parent-teacher year.

WASHINGTON

So acute has been the housing situation in Washington, particularly in Seattle, Bremerton, and the coast area, that a special parent-teacher committee has been appointed to study the various phases of housing and the problems associated with migration. This committee has been in service about a year.

Many Washington parent-teacher associations have done highly specialized war work. They have sponsored Red Cross units, conducted classes in chemical warfare aid, and exhibited films depicting protection against bombs. Individual members are greatly interested in first aid and have been eagerly volunteering their services as air raid wardens.

Washington has elected a wartime activities chairman.

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Congress is lending all possible support to the national war effort. Members are urged to care for the home front first, and then to take as many courses in nutrition and home nursing as possible. The 750 local unit report blanks that have been returned indicate willing cooperation. There are 126 units that conduct classes in nutrition, using the state correspondence course. Safety programs are much to the fore, owing to the high rate of industrial, traffic, and home accidents.

A complete health check-up of every high school senior boy by school physicians was sponsored by the Congress. Defects were reported direct to parents, and correction was urged. The program met with a very good response.

A number of local units have reported continuing their activities throughout the summer—an indication that parent-teacher associations are fully awake to the national situation and aware of their high responsibilities.

WISCONSIN

In all fields of work pertaining to the protection of children, the supreme object of all parent-teacher associations everywhere, the Wisconsin Congress has continued active. Special emphasis, however, has been and will continue to be placed on the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The war has greatly accentuated this serious problem. The state congress is cooperating with the state department of public welfare in its solution. As part of the war effort the public schools of Madison organized a committee on physical welfare and morale and invited the president of the city council

to become a member. The group decided upon a series of demonstrations on the value of whole wheat as part of its nutrition campaign. The city council arranged to have the demonstrations sponsored by the local associations. Sixteen of the city's twenty-two parent-teacher associations participated in the project.

The general war effort of the Wisconsin Congress has been steady and persevering. Every effort has been made to carry forward effectively the wartime program of the National Congress.

WYOMING

Nearly all parent-teacher units in Wyoming are cooperating with the Red Cross and carrying out all accepted wartime activities. The larger towns are appointing block mothers and organizing them into working groups. The little town of Cody, with a population of 3,000, has a record of which many a larger community would be proud. The seven physicians of Cody, five of whom are about to enter the armed services, are giving a lecture course to prepare the community to carry on with a limited amount of professional medical service. Practically all of the members of the parent-teacher association attend these lectures. The association also maintains a children's welfare clothing project; all clothing donated must be mended, clean, and in good condition. Cody has a new city auditorium, and the district director, a former World War nurse, has presented plans to the city authorities to convert this into an emergency hospital. Cody completed its program of immunization long before Child Health Day.

INTENSIFY YOUR P.T.A. SALVAGE PROGRAM

THE need of a greatly intensified nation-wide salvage program, designed to reach into every home and industrial plant and increase the flow of all vital scrap materials to the country's war plants, has been announced by Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, and Lesing J. Rosenwald, chief of the Bureau of Industrial Conservation.

Parent-teacher associations throughout the United States are urged to do all they can to aid the salvage effort, both by organizing local drives and by helping to disseminate essential information. The machinery already set up by councils and local units can easily be geared to the intensified effort.

Scrap Iron and Steel

The situation with regard to scrap iron and steel is particularly serious. At least six million tons must be collected at once. War production quotas cannot be met without it. Chairmen of salvage committees are requested to give this urgent need their immediate attention.

National Scrap Harvest

Persons living on farms, who have no satisfactory way of disposing of scrap materials, should communicate with the county agent or with a farm implements dealer. As an important part of the new, intensified salvage program, a huge farm salvage project known as the National Scrap Harvest is being organized. Rural P.T.A.'s will find a fruitful field of effort in helping with local implementation of this plan in farming districts.

WARTIME PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Based on the 1942 Convention Findings

THE National Congress of Parents and Teachers, with its established goals, its wealth of program material, and its national membership of over 2,685,000 parents and teachers and other adults, has already made a telling contribution to our country's drive toward ultimate victory in the present war.

Even before war was declared, its work was well organized and its carefully planned defense programs were in effective operation. All these programs, from the very beginning, were made flexible enough to be geared instantly to the demands of war.

The *National Parent-Teacher*, official magazine of the organization, had already published an abundance of material that could readily be used either to originate or to supplement a program of work in any area of emergency interest and need.

From national convention, board, and executive meetings had come statements of Congress wartime policy and lists of suggested activities, all directed toward unfaltering defense of the American way of life.

Naturally, then, when war was declared, the courage and confidence instilled by national parent-teacher leaders had an immediate effect. It is probably safe to say that the P.T.A.'s were the first organized lay groups in the United States to go into wartime action on a nation-wide scale.

The National Congress now presents certain suggestions adapted from the findings of the San Antonio convention. These suggestions outline specific fields of activity for parent-teacher associations and may be supplemented with many references from Congress publications. Program committees are thus assured of a wide range of selection, both in choosing an activity and in compiling material to implement it.

I. HEALTH

1. Spread current information regarding protective foods and the fundamentals of a balanced diet through study groups and programs.
2. Prepare parents to guard the well-being of their families through classes in home nursing and first aid.
3. Arrange for thorough physical examinations and correction of defects for all age groups.



WARTIME SERVICE PACKET

COMPACT, convenient, and outstandingly practical, the new Wartime Service Packet contains five immediately useful leaflets on various phases of the war effort and is designed to hold additional leaflets as they are issued. The Packet is a valuable contribution to the parent-teacher war effort. A copy will come to your association from your state office.

4. Cooperate with and support an adequate school and community health program.
5. Give greater emphasis to the health of older children, especially those of high school age.
6. Make an effort through Federal, state, and community agencies to eliminate commercialized vice and prostitution.

II. EDUCATION

1. Maintain support of public education; oppose curtailment of educational opportunity.
2. Recognize the need to accelerate equalization of educational opportunities.
3. Support all efforts to make Federal aid available to financially handicapped localities.
4. Cooperate in plans to raise the status of rural teachers and the quality of instruction in the rural school.
5. Encourage educational programs that emphasize preparation for responsible citizenship and for worthy home and family life.
6. Become informed concerning curriculum instruction in health, social hygiene, safety, the effects of alcohol and other narcotics, and the use of school and public libraries.
7. Develop guidance programs.
8. Support plans to give instruction to the handicapped child according to his abilities and needs.
9. Stimulate self-education through extension and fullest use of public library services.
10. Assist with arrangements for classes to aid adults in linguistic, social, vocational, and professional growth.
11. Work, unitedly through home, school, and church to foster spiritual growth and moral standards.

12. Provide information to enable adults to interpret the war to each child on the level of his understanding.
13. Promote programs to educate youth, through united efforts of home, school, and community, for the task of rebuilding the world after the war.

III. RECREATION

1. Cooperate in providing recreation for (a) men of the armed forces when they are off duty; (b) soldiers of industry in their free time; and (c) soldiers on the family front in all homes.
2. Utilize all sources of family fun.
3. Learn to work with groups of children, and supplement the work of professional recreation leaders, librarians, and teachers.
4. Maintain playgrounds, recreation centers, and other community facilities, with professional leadership.

IV. CONSERVATION

1. Promote programs to instill the facts and the spirit of conservation into the minds and hearts of all American citizens and of succeeding generations.
2. Encourage preservation of values as well as materials, and plan for the long-time welfare of our country.

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. Provide day care of children under adequate standards.
2. Sponsor a nation-wide (government) plan for identification and registration of children.
3. Protect children against the physical hazards of daily life as well as against those brought on by war.
4. Guard child labor standards and protect children against exploitation.

